

MINOR FUR-BEARING ANIMALS.

FIELD WORK.

The work of enforcement ^{in the usual manner} of the law and regulations for the protection of fur-bearing animals in Alaska in 1918 was carried on by representatives of the Bureau. The greatly increased activities in connection with the fisheries ~~was~~ demanded much of the time of field employees, but all the attention possible ^{was} ~~has been~~ devoted to matters pertaining to the minor fur-bearing animals. Two wardens in the interior of Alaska and one special fur warden have given ^{particular} ~~special~~ attention to ^{particular} ~~this~~ work. Through the cooperation of the office of the Governor of Alaska, game wardens and certain special employees of the Territory have assisted ~~in~~ by reporting violations of the law and regulations, and have made some seizures of illegally taken skins.

Apparatus
insert

REGULATIONS.

In the main the regulations remained the same as in 1917. The prohibition ^{in respect to} ~~on~~ the taking of marten in Alaska continued in force. The prohibition ^{as to} ~~on~~ the taking of beaver was extended until November 1, 1923. The situation in regard to the shipment of beaver and marten skins from Alaska has not been considered altogether satisfactory on account of the number of skins of both species which are declared to have been procured in Canada. It is possible that the regulations are thus evaded in some cases. The desirability of having similar regulations put in effect by the Canadian authorities is being considered, as it is believed that where depletion has occurred in Alaska the same condition ^{probably} ~~most likely~~ exists in the contiguous provinces of Canada.

Seasons for the taking of wild fur-bearing ^{animals were unchanged,} ~~remained the same as in~~ 1917, with the exception that in the region drained by streams flowing

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9/ Through a reciprocal arrangement with the Governor of Alaska, employees of this Bureau have been appointed ex officio game wardens, ^{and} ~~with~~ the Territorial game wardens and special employees for the suppression of the liquor traffic among the Indians have been designated special wardens in the Alaska service of the Bureau of Fisheries without additional compensation. This increases the Bureau's personnel in Alaska by eleven members, as follows:

9/ Game wardens:

Patrick Hamilton,	Ketchikan;
J. C. Lund,	Juneau;
P. S. Ericksen,	McCarthy;
J. A. Baughman,	Seward;
Steve R. L. Foster,	Nenana;
R. E. Steel,	Eagle; and
M. O. Solberg,	Nome.

9/ Special employees:

J. F. McDonald,	Juneau;
J. A. Bourke,	Valdez;
Thos. P. Killeen,	Nome; and
John A. Moe,	Ruby.

Game Warden F. A. Martin, at ~~Ma~~ Anchorage, had already been appointed a special fur warden at a nominal salary to succeed a former employee of similar status.

This arrangement was completed in July and assistance has been given chiefly in the matter of reporting violations of the law and regulations, and making seizures of illegally taken skins.

into the Arctic Ocean north of the sixty-eighth parallel of north latitude the open season for taking foxes ^{was} ~~is~~ extended 30 days, to include April 14 of each year. This change was made on the recommendation of the Governor of Alaska, ^{It} ~~which~~ ^{advocated} ~~was~~ approved by Archdeacon Stuck and Dr. V. Steganson, who have a thorough knowledge of conditions in the far northern part of Alaska. ~~Letters from Mr. T. L. Richardson, United States Government~~ teacher and United States Commissioner at Barrow, Alaska, ~~have~~ also urged ^{this} such extension of the season. The killing of any fur-bearing animal ^a ~~for~~ which close seasons exist is prohibited if its fur is unprime. ✓

A regulation has also been issued to prohibit the use of dogs in the taking of fur-bearing animals. This was deemed necessary because of the custom, ^{particularly in the Kotlik region of pursuing} ~~in certain places of chasing~~ foxes with ^{dogs} ~~hounds~~. It was reported that a hound will run down a fox in a very few minutes and, if the hunter does not quickly catch up with the dog, the fox will soon be so mangled as to ^{greatly} ~~reduce~~ the value of the pelt or even render it practically worthless.

The regulation regarding the use of dogs was promulgated September 18, 1918, by the as follows:

Dogs. - The use of dogs for pursuing and killing fur-bearing animals for which close seasons exist is prohibited.

On September 24, 1918, the following regulation in respect to foxes was approved:

Fox. - The killing of any fox is prohibited throughout the season from March 15 to November 15, both days inclusive, of each year; except that in the region drained by streams flowing into the Arctic Ocean north of the 68th parallel of north latitude, the prohibited season shall be from April 15 to November 15, both days inclusive, of each year.